

5-15-99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

1612 '99 MAY 20 AIO:43

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I want the FDA to label irradiated foods prominently, using the radura symbol and the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" only. This includes irradiated elements of a combination or mixed food. Irradiated whole produce should be prominently labeled on the boxes and on a nearby sign in the market. I also want to be informed as to whether prepared food I purchase from restaurants and other food service suppliers has been irradiated.

As a consumer, I would be misled by the absence of a label. I might reject irradiated meat because it has an off-flavor or odor, without knowing why this had occurred, and avoid that brand in the future. I might reject some produce that had an unacceptable texture; if such texture changes happened consistently, I might end up using less produce in my diet as a whole.

Furthermore, I rely on whole foods such as fruits and vegetables to provide my essential vitamins. Irradiation causes nutrient losses I will not recognize or expect in fresh, whole foods.

There is considerable evidence that processing by irradiation causes chemical changes in foods that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. In addition, there are no long-term studies on the effects of humans fed a diet heavy in irradiated foods. Labeling would allow me to decide *for myself* if I want to choose the convenience and enhanced storage qualities of irradiated foods along with the potential health risks.

Because this technology has not been used on a wide scale before, I request that the labeling requirement be retained.

Please place public comments on the Internet so that I can learn more about the viewpoints of those who support an end to labeling.

Sincerely,

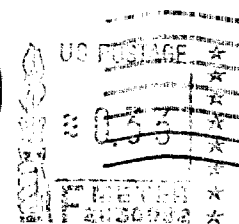
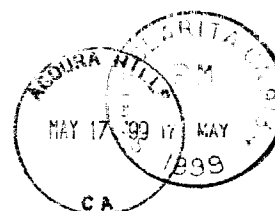
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